

THEFT RING

Youth Runs Down Cop In Stolen Car

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A police sergeant was run down by a 15-year-old car thief last night when officers broke up a gang stealing new cars from an auto-transporting firm.

Sgt. Thomas G. McNerney, 28, was listed in good condition at Merritt Hospital today with a broken left leg and right wrist and cut forehead.

He was one of seven policemen dispatched to Kenosha Auto Transport, 2125 Seventh St., where four juveniles and an older youth were reportedly driving away the new cars.

Several arrests had been made when the 15-year-old boy drove into McNerney, sending him into the air, and narrowly missed hitting a second officer.

The youth's car then caromed off a police car and fled, with other officers in pursuit. During the chase, the youth struck another police car but continued to Fifth and Market streets, where he went through a red traffic light, collided with a civilian vehicle and was captured.

He will be charged, police said, with two counts each of attempted murder and assault with a deadly weapon. Three other youths will be charged with auto theft, as will be Ronald Lee Harris, 19, of 6746 Brentford St.

Police said the auto-transport firm has been the scene of a rash of auto thefts in recent weeks.